

June 23, 2006

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WASHINGTON, DC- U.S. Rep. Charlie Melancon today announced that St. Bernard and Plaquemines Parishes would receive \$3,675,873 in federal disaster aid grants from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The grants will reimburse the parishes for disaster relief costs.

"I am grateful the federal government is continuing to invest in rebuilding efforts in St. Bernard and Plaquemines Parishes," said Melancon. **"While these grants will help meet our short-term recovery needs, I and the rest of the Louisiana delegation are working in Washington to ensure that we have a stable source of revenue for future levee-building and coastal restoration efforts. My number one priority as the U. S. Representative for southeast Louisiana is to get the funding we need to build a comprehensive hurricane protection system so that what happened last year never happens again."**

The following grants were announced today for St. Bernard and Plaquemines Parishes:

• **\$2,435,590 to Replace Plaquemines Parish-Owned Equipment and Vehicles.** The extensive flooding suffered by Plaquemines Parish as a result of Hurricane Katrina damaged parish-owned equipment in several locations. This includes construction equipment, heavy-duty trucks and tractors, though not any items contained inside the equipment. These funds will reimburse the parish for replacing equipment damaged beyond repair. Additional funding has been provided for the replacement of parish-owned cars, pickup trucks, SUVs and vans.

• **\$1,240,283 for Debris Removal and Repair of St. Bernard Parish Government Complex.** High winds, heavy rains and a 12-foot storm surge caused catastrophic damage throughout St. Bernard Parish. The parish government complex sustained major damage from the storm and sustained floodwaters nine feet deep. These Public Assistance funds will reimburse the parish for the cost of debris removal and the repair of the government complex to its pre-disaster condition.

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